

Letters To The Editor

Editor: ... in the last issue (January 18) I read of oil wells blown down. Now oil wells cannot blow down being in the ground. Derricks do blow down. Derricks may be where no wells exist and visa versa.

One of your readers.
E. Note: You spell it visa? Isn't that versa?

Youth Band Seeks Aid From City For Parade

To help defray expenses, the Torrance Area Youth Band has asked that the city kick in \$1000 towards the Annual Parade staged by the local organization.

Forrest W. Meyers, president of the incorporated group, pointed out in a letter to the Torrance City Council, that the band has "just about been breaking even" on their annual fund-raising event.

He claims that since the city reaps the reward of much publicity from the parade and that it provides recreation for those viewing the event as well as stimulating business by attracting huge crowds to Torrance, the city should help with the expenses.

Trophies and transportation of units in the parade eat up most of the profits, Meyers said. Without trophies few organizations would enter the event, he said.

The matter was taken under consideration by the council.



GARY GROVES
... Club's Key Man
Gary Groves
New Key Club President

Five Business Classes Added at El Camino JC

Five new business courses have been added to the spring semester courses offered by El Camino College, according to a special business class schedule now available at the college. Classes begin today.

Courses in business training now include business correspondence, law for the layman, credits and collections, business conferences, and a short "brush-up" course for office workers. Twenty-four other business courses previously offered will be continued during the new semester. They range from real estate and insurance to stenotype and personal typing.

SERVICE INTERRUPTED
Water service in some sections of Kettler Knolls was interrupted for a few moments Friday morning while water department crews repaired a leak in a service line.

Installation of the new Torrance High School Key Club officers will take place this evening at the home of Vice-Principal Charles Wallace, sponsor of the club.

Gary Groves, just completing a term as president of the Boys League at the high school, will be installed as the new Key Club president, succeeding Arnis Dandoy. Dandoy will be the new treasurer.

Taking over as vice-president will be Glynn Boyce, the new student body president. Duane Mittan will be the new secretary.

Fraudulent Insurance Claims Threaten Unemployment Fund

By ROSS GRAHAM

Ed. Note: This is the fifth of a series of special articles. Frauds against the California unemployment insurance fund do not constitute a major abuse, but they do help to deplete the fund which is steadily losing money, despite the record employment in the state during the last year.

Frauds play their part in setting up the condition where unemployment insurance benefits might be stopped entirely, or the employers forced to pay a higher tax on their payrolls to replenish the fund, or the employees themselves again being forced to contribute 1 per cent or more of their pay checks towards the fund.

The employees have not paid into the unemployment insurance fund since May, 1946, when their 1 per cent contribution was diverted to disability, or sickness, insurance.

DOUBLE PAY
In 39 per cent of the cases of fraud, the perpetrator is working at some job and collecting unemployment benefits at the same time.

In some cases a worker quits or is laid off a job that comes under unemployment insurance. He or she applies for benefits and at the same time goes to work in agriculture or domestic service.

Prior to the latest Congressional amendment to the Social Security setup, no reports were made from these occupations as they did not come under unemployment insurance. Therefore, there were no records to show the fraud to the Commission.

Now domestic are under unemployment insurance, but only if regularly employed and receiving \$50 or more in wages from the employer in a calendar quarter, so there still is a loophole for frauds.

STAND INVESTIGATING
The only way to catch these frauds is for the Unemployment Insurance Commission to have investigation "TF" each claimant.

This at present is largely impossible, as the Commission has only 32 investigators for the entire state.

Approximately 100,700 persons a week received unemployment or disability insurance payment during September, according to the Commission's report. Obviously 32 investigators could

have to be made in Washington. As said before, outright fraud is not so much a problem as the "voluntary quit" where the claimant uses all sorts of artifices to avoid getting a job, meanwhile drawing unemployment insurance.

But they all add up to the reason why the unemployment insurance fund in California will have paid out \$23,000,000 approximately more last year than it took in, according to the best estimates.

All kinds of illegal and improper payments to unemployment insurance chislers of various sorts is estimated at the present time to amount to \$60-

000,000 to \$75,000,000 a year at least.

RESERVE COULD GROW
If these rackets can be stopped, the money saved for the honestly unemployed workers of California will result in an increase in the unemployment reserve fund instead of a deficit, at least as long as the present full employment lasts.

But there are still other rackets that must be abolished if the fund is to be protected. The next installment will tell about the "lag-quarter" situation, whereby a smart and unprincipled person can loaf on unemployment insurance a full year out of every 18 months.

Nurses May Receive Boost in Pay

Indications are that nurses in the Los Angeles County hospital and allied institutions may receive an increase in salaries if the State of California grants an increase to State employed nurses, according to the office of County Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

At the present time the County Hospital is said to be in a deplorable situation as regards nurses, there being some 300 unfilled positions of graduate nurses there. County hospital nurses also are said to have

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